



**Governor's Highway Safety Program**  
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## **Press Release**

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### **For Immediate Release**

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#### **Alcohol Awareness: Keeping Prom and Graduation Celebrations Safe**

As prom and graduations ramp up for high schools, the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) is reminding parents, teens and others of the dangers of underage drinking, and the legal consequences of providing alcohol to minors.

Make sure prom night is a positive experience you'll always remember; don't drink alcohol or use any other substances that will compromise your ability to make good decisions.

"Proms and graduations are a time for celebration, but please be safe and make smart choices," said Keith Flynn, Commissioner of Department of Public Safety. "Remember: it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to possess or consume alcohol, and NEVER drink alcohol and drive, or accept a ride with someone who has been drinking."

Statistics show nearly one-third of alcohol-related teen traffic deaths occur during April, May and June, a time when parties and celebrations can turn dangerous and sometimes tragic for underage drinkers. With these sobering statistics in mind, Governor's Highway Safety Program encourages parents to talk with their teens about the dangers of underage drinking, and set ground rules before their son or daughter leaves the house for these events.

#### **PROM and GRADUATION SAFETY TIPS**

- Set non-negotiable rules about drinking, drugs and driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Ask your teen for a complete itinerary for the evening, including where they'll be going before, during and after prom.
- Ask for cell phone numbers so you can reach them, and/or establish call-in times to connect with your child.
- Be aware of alcoholic energy drinks, which contain 6-12 percent alcohol, nearly three times more alcohol than most beers.
- If your child is going to an after-prom party at a friend's house, it is your responsibility to find out if the parents are going to allow underage drinking at their home.
- Offer your child the unconditional option of calling you for help, advice or to pick them up at any time, day or night. Make it clear you want to be part of their smart and safe decisions.

To ensure a safe night of celebration, GHSP also sends a reminder to always buckle up, pay attention behind the wheel, and speak up to stop unsafe driving behaviors.

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